OPINION

***DMC Crosswalk Face-off***

Read all about the pros and cons of building a second crosswalk on **page 6**

FEATURES

***When Bedbugs Attack!***

Nobody wants them, but there's a myth-busting article about the critters on **page 8**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

***Shakespearean Malcolm X***

An award-winning play that offers a fresh take on an American icon, more on **page 11**

# The Spectator

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Volume LVII
Number 21

## New Director of Campus Safety

**by Claire Chang '20**
*Staff Writer*

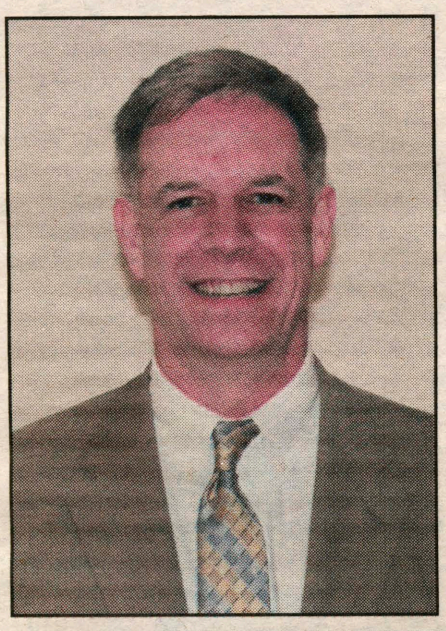

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

**Francis Coots, the new Director.**

Last month, Hamilton College appointed Francis Coots as the new Director of Campus Safety. Coots ended a thirty-three year career with the New York State Police last February, retiring as Troop Commander of a central New York area. I had the chance to speak with Francis Coots about safety issues pertaining to the Hamilton College campus and listen to his views about maintaining security.

The definition of a safe campus is important to Coots. "You could have the safest campus in the world, where there is no crime, no incidents... but if people don't *feel* safe, then you're really not safe. Everyone—the people that live here, the people that work here and the people that worship here, they have to feel safe. It's when you wake up in the morning, and you want to go walk over to Commons, and you feel comfortable walking to Commons."

*You brought up how it is important to feel safe practicing worship*

*see* **Francis**, *page 2*

## SAVES organizes events for April

**by Emily Eisler '17**
*News Editor*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Hamilton's Sexual Assault and Violence Education and Support organization, SAVES, has a month of programming planned to bring awareness and educate students on the importance of sexual misconduct prevention as well as the necessity of consent in all sexual situations.

Helena LaPorte-Burns '18, the Outreach Chair of SAVES, outlined the month's programming: "SAVES will continue to have weekly meetings open to all students that will serve as a place to talk about education and prevention. Besides putting together a video that will hopefully educate our community about Hamilton's Title IX policies, we are also working to present the 'It's On Us' campaign. We also have Peer Advocate training, 'The Clothesline' project, the human chain and survivor story readings." Several of these events happen every year, with SAVES partnering in the past with SAAC and other organizations to come up with more interdisciplinary programming each year. The newest innovation this year is the slideshow SAVES is creating as a new way bring awareness to students.

LaPorte-Burns went on to describe the importance of students understanding more about Title IX and how the school policies surrounding it work: "I believe it is important for students to not only be aware of our Title IX policies, but also to know that these policies are constantly evolving and that the students have the power to impact them. These policies are relevant to everyone on campus, whether or not a student has direct contact with the procedures. These policies are in place to ensure that each student is learning in a safe environment." LaPorte-Burns hopes that students will pledge to stop sexual assault and violence as a community, as well as become more present and engaged within the movement to end the problem of sexual harassment and assault at Hamilton and on other college campuses.

## Students admitted for class of 2021 most diverse in Hamilton history

**by Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner '19**
*News Editor*

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADMISSION OFFICE

**Hamilton College Admission Office welcomes to campus and congratulates the admitted class of 2021.**

On March 24, the Hamilton College Admission Office released this year's admission decisions. The office received a nine percent increase in applications, resulting in an all-time low acceptance rate of 23.6 percent. Both SAT and ACT score averages increased, and 85 percent of admits from high schools that rank were in the top 10 percent of their class.

Dean of Admission, Monica Inzer reported yet another increase: "An unprecedented 32 percent of admits identify as Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Native American or Multiracial students from the U.S.; an additional five percent are international citizens. This compares with final admit percentages of 28 percent and 5 percent last year and in 2015, and 26 percent and four percent in 2014. Our current admits hail from 45 states and 39 countries ranging from Bhutan and Ethiopia to Ghana and Kazakhstan. The five most represented states in our admit pool include NY, MA, CA, CT, NJ. Only 25 percent of admits come from our home state this year, which compares to 27-30 percent in recent years."

These new numbers have caused people to wonder what actions were taken to result in this increase. Inzer mentioned potential causes, such as a "new website with better and more prominent messaging designed for prospective families, amazing new virtual tour, excellent visit programs (interview outreach, diversity overnights, Hamilton Saturdays, etc.), data-informed travel and recruitment programs, increased emphasis on guidance counselor and community partnerships, continued efficiencies in our process to free up more time to provide better service to our visiting families and great new admission staff additions (plus our new president, who is an excellent ambassador for the college!). Of course everyone else thinks that our increase in applications is attributed to *Hamilton, the musical*. Of course it did not help, but we'd like to think that the Hamilton, the musical, is popular because of Hamilton, the college!"

Assistant Dean of Admission Mia Ritter suggested that it is less about changes in the process, though. Ritter notes, "Nothing changed, we still have a supplement, we still have all of the things that we believe we need to make an educated decision on the students, but I think we just really amped up our efforts in recruitment and we made sure that people felt like they were at home here. We wanted to make an impression, and we did." Ritter elaborates, "Generally when students apply from more disadvantaged backgrounds they don't always have the resources to make sure that their test scores are sent in, and everything costs something, unfortunately. We're very lucky because we waive a lot of those fees for students who can't afford to send anything in, but a lot of it is just getting the word out that we do waive those fees."

Assistant Dean of Admission Mia Rogers also works as the Coordinator of Diversity Recruitment. Underneath her supervision, students Amanda Hernandez '17 and Andres (Fluffy) Aguilar '19 intern for the diversity and access recruitment team, contacting students to make sure their applications are on track. Still, Ritter emphasized that diversity recruitment is not just the two of them or Mia; it is all of us... every single person on this staff deals with diversity recruitment." In conclusion, Ritter reflected, "we in our office are really proud of the work we do here, and our efforts have paid off. Hopefully you guys as students will feel the same way that we have recruited

*see* **Admissions**, *page 2*

# Hamilton College Admissions Office Team steps up recruiting game

*from* **Admissions,** *page 1*

a really wonderful class that's diverse in so many ways and has incredible interests and wants to contribute to this community."

Inzer reiterated, "Needless to say, we are exceedingly proud of this year's admit cohort, and we hope you are as well. On behalf of the admission and financial aid teams, I want to thank all of the students who work with the admission office (as tour guides, hosts, diversity interns, student workers, interns) and those who help us in less formal ways by being wonderful Hamilton ambassadors. We're so lucky to represent your college and admit your future classmates and alumni and want you to know it is a responsibility we do with great pride and humility." Decisions are in and the admit pool looks promising. Now the admissions office is focused on getting students to actually commit and will spend all of April focusing on this goal.

# Francis Coots appointed new Campus Safety Director

*from* **Hamilton,** *page 1*

*on campus. Could you elaborate on this?*

**FC:** If you're religious, you can be very vulnerable when you're in the midst of worshipping." He drew upon the 2015 Charleston church shooting as an example. "The seven people that were killed in the church...They should have been able to go wherever they want to go, and pray to whatever God they want to pray to, and they shouldn't have to worry about some moron going in there with a gun and killing them. So that's why I say that no matter where you live, no matter where you work, no matter where you worship, you should feel safe. And that's kind of where I'm going with that.

*Could you highlight Hamilton's biggest safety problem and safety asset?*

I can't answer your question with a specific. I will always be concerned about young people engaged in risky behavior, and that could be anything, whether it's excessive alcohol consumption, elicit drug consumption, unprotected sex. I'm using [those examples] to illustrate that I worry about high risk behavior. [College] is supposed to be a place where you learn, a place where you can become more mature, more worldly, and I want to make sure that when you get here as a freshman, you leave as a graduated senior.

*How do you view the relationship between Campus Safety and the student body?*

I've been here a month, and the student body has been extremely welcoming to me personally. I've had contact with a number of different students in different fields on campus. They've been very respectful. I think it would be premature of me to say there's an 'Us Against Them' attitude. However, I want to make sure that I never find that out. I think by being approachable, and expecting the people who work for me to treat everyone with respect—that's the most important thing. We'll never be perfect, and when we make mistakes, we're going to be transparent in telling people, 'Yep, we made a mistake.' In the event that something happens that causes a negative relationship to build between Campus Safety and the student body, I want to be able to say, you know who I am; I've been there to answer all of your questions, I've been a resource for all of you to continue learning and to make your campus safe. And when I need to be given the benefit of the doubt, I want to have earned that respect, because respect is earned.

*How do you work alongside our EMTs?*

Very well. We train together in some respect. We transport a lot of their equipment, so we have to know what they need, when they need it, where they need it, and we need to know how they work and how their personalities are. [We] want to be part of the system that's going to take care of the students, faculty and administrators, so we do some training together, and I think that only fosters strong relationships.

*April is Sexual Assault Awareness month. Could you talk about how Campus Safety handles sexual assault cases on campus, and how they work with students and the administration?*

When it comes to combatting sexual assault on campus, there are a couple different things [to mention]. One is we work with Lisa Magnarelli, the Title IX Coordinator, because she is the one who coordinates all the investigations when it comes to sexual assault on campus. Two, when we see risky behavior, we are going to intervene when it's appropriate. And I'm going to leave it kind of open ended like that and let the reader interpret what I'm saying. I think that if the student body is comfortable with coming to Campus Safety with any concerns, with any type of issue they may be confronting—and it could be any issue—but specifically sexual assault, I want them to feel comfortable in [that] they can approach us, and that we will address it in the manner in which it should be addressed.

*What is your overall vision for Campus Safety in Hamilton College?*

A well run department and a department that's professional. Training has to be a high priority for the campus safety officers. They have to understand what their role is on campus, they have to understand the relationship that exists between the student body and Campus Safety and they also have to know what some of the new technologies are that they can employ to make campus safer, to help students learn and just [to be] an overall positive influence on the student body. As far as specific initiatives go, Campus Safety will utilize a new record management system, as well as install computers into campus patrol vehicles. Campus Safety officers will also get involved in sporting events, "To ensure the fans' and teams' safety."

*Is there anything else you would like to add?*

I want to makes sure that everybody on the campus knows that they can approach me [with] any type of issue they may confront. I have an open-door policy. If any issue comes to them that I need to address, I need to know, and I want to work with them. Whether it's a student, faculty member or even administrator, I want to be able to work with them to make the problem better.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

# NESCAC NEWS

by Noelle Connors '19
*News Staff Writer*

## Amherst Hosts Recreation of Stolen Artwork

During the month of March, Amherst College commemorated the unsolved mystery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum art heist of 1990 with recreations of the stolen artwork. During the original heist on March 18, 1990, 13 paintings were stolen, together valued at $500 million dollars. After working from the FBI National Stolen Art File to recreate sketches of these works, artist Kota Ezawa was inspired by the release of the tape of the heist to combine the tape with the sketches to create a dynamic exhibit. Ezawa used light boxes to create 3D works of art inspired by the original stolen works. These works will be on display at Amherst College's Mead Art Museum through June 1, and Ezawa will speak about his works in a lecture on April 5.

## Bowdoin Begins Purple Media Campaign to Address Red/Blue Media Divide

Beginning April 1, Bowdoin will begin the Polar Bear Purple Media Plunge to address the political divide in media. Through this program, students, staff and faculty will sign up to receive a daily email which will contain news headlines from diverse sources including CNN, MSBC and FOX. Often, students are only exposed to news through algorithms, news feeds or particular websites they choose, all of which match their own preconceived political views The goal of this project is not to endorse any particular media outlet, but instead to encourage participants to read articles from diverse perspectives. So far, over 80 Bowdoin students have signed up to participate in the challenge, which includes reading news headlines every day from April 1-26 and then completing two surveys to study the challenge's impact.

## Bates Moves Away From Paper Cups in Dining Halls

As of April 25, Bates's main dining hall, Commons, will no longer have paper coffee cups available. Currently, Bates College uses 750,000 cups every year. The result of a long-term effort to improve sustainability on campus and reduce waste, this move will reduce waste not only in the production of the paper cups, but also in the waste which cannot be recycled. Bates's dining service is giving every student a reusable mug to use instead of the cups and has installed a mug cleaning station in the dining hall. While this change was driven predominantly by collaboration between Bates EcoReps and Dining Services, over 1,200 out of 1,700 Bates students voted in an online poll in favor of the implementation of this program.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

# Student Activites Office crafts big plans for Sadove basement

**by Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner '19**
*News Editor*

Sadove's basement went out of use several years ago when it was removed from the list of social spaces for events allowed to include alcohol. Director of Student Activities Noelle Niznik explained, "With the Sadove Programming initiative, we wanted to make sure our event was sub-free all of the time. We want the space to feel welcoming to everyone, and if there were parties downstairs on the weekends, we found that other students were uncomfortable utilizing the other areas of the building." Consequently, the basement has remained barren since then.

The plan to renovate the basement has been on the to-do list for multiple summers now. However, it has consistently taken a back seat to other projects and jobs. This semester, Adrian Summers '19, class representative for Student Assembly on the assembly's Cultural Affairs Committee and a Student Diversity Council (SDC) member involved with multiple cultural organizations, offered a solution. Summers explained that he heard that Niznik and graduate assistant Jayla Greene were planning to redo the basement and, as Greene described, "thought it could be a great opportunity and project for the SDC to get involved with."

The goal now is to create a student-designed space. Greene elaborated, "The best part about this Sadove basement project is that with encouragement from Noelle, the students have been given the chance to share their ideas in regards to what they want to see this space become. The goal is for the basement to actually serve a purpose and overall just be a welcoming space for students to interact and hopefully relax! I am excited for the students to see their vision come to life."

In order to include student input, Student Assembly's Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) sent out an email to the student body asking students what they would like the basement to become. One of the bigger ideas currently floating around is turning the basement into an arcade space. Regardless of what the space becomes, there will be one prominent feature there: a mural. Summers proposed to SDC that each organization could create their own small mural, and then together the groups can all create one larger mural, using the mural to express how the groups operate in conjunction with one another.

Summers also felt that SDC needed a project to become a fully realized entity. He noted, "SDC is not a fully realized entity on campus. I feel as though we're almost like a living, breathing Google calendar. No one on campus knew we existed. We didn't know what our job was, and I felt as though the mural was a fun way for us to work together and figure out a way to all contribute in a small way to a bigger picture (literally and metaphorically). So if we can figure out how to satisfy everyone's needs in one mural, then we can figure out how to coordinate big campus events that satisfy all of our needs. But it starts with something small and fun... If we paint together and we do this one thing, this is us saying we're real." Greene reiterated, "This project is important because it has allowed the SDC to take the lead in revamping a space that will be for every student, and for the student organizations within SDC to gain some recognition on this campus."

So Summers brought the idea back to SDC and to the CAC and received enthusiastic support. Antonia Ng '18, chair of the CAC, defined the CAC's role as connecting "the SDC to the broader student population through Student Assembly. Cultural Affairs Committee sent out the survey so that it would be obvious that Student Assembly is working in conjunction with the SDC to collect feedback on this project." Summers confirmed, "SDC is spearheading it."

Niznik explained the process moving forward, specifying that "this project will likely take a year or a little longer to complete. I'd like to see what funds I have left over at the end of the academic year to put towards furniture and some other things (i.e. if students vote for an arcade, we'd begin pricing arcade games). I envision the space to be an interactive space welcoming to anyone. It can be reserved but also used any time if no one has reserved it. In an effort to support Sadove Programming, I want to avoid making it another study space or meeting room on campus. Not to say that it also can't be that outside of peak hours, but I think first and foremost we want to figure out if it would be something more, like a game room, a collaborative art space, performance space, etc." Niznik concluded by echoing the sentiment expressed by everyone involved: "I am really excited about the potential even though we are only in the beginning stages of this project."

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

**Instead of old ping-pong tables, Niznik hopes to see the basement furnished with couches, games and a big mural.**

## Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

**Thursday, March 30**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:48 A.M. | Assist Student – Morris House |
| 4:14 P.M. | Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall |
| 8:23 P.M. | Trouble Alarm – Babbitt Hall |
| 9:58 P.M. | Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall |

**Friday, March 31**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:41 A.M. | Check the Welfare – Bundy Circle |
| 2:09 A.M. | Area Check – Burke Library |
| 5:04 P.M. | Motorist Assist – Main Quad |
| 11:15 P.M. | Noise Complaint – Skenandoa House |
| 11:48 P.M. | Noise Complaint – South Hall |

**Saturday, April 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2:51 A.M. | Disorderly Conduct – Milbank Hall |
| 8:50 A.M. | Alarm Activation – Wellin Museum |
| 1:48 P.M. | Area Check – Visitor Lot |
| 2:55 P.M. | Mechanical Issue – Taylor Science |
| 3:27 P.M. | Smoke Detector – Dunham Hall |
| 9:39 P.M. | Area Check – North Lot |
| 11:06 P.M. | Area Check – Wertimer House |

**Sunday, April 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:41 A.M. | Vehicle/Traffic Violations – Skenandoa Lot |
| 3:51 A.M. | Medical Emergency – Residence Hall |
| 5:25 A.M. | Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall |
| 10:11 A.M. | Suspicious Activity – Bristol Pool |
| 12:31 P.M. | Animal Complaint – Bundy East |
| 2:50 P.M. | Medical Emergency – Residence Hall |
| 5:11 P.M. | Medical Emergency – Residence Hall |
| 5:18 P.M. | Medical Emergency – Residence Hall |
| 11:26 P.M. | Vehicle/Traffic Violations – Root Lot |

# Tangible and intangible strides towards success on the Hill

This past Friday, students were granted permission to park in visitor/faculty lots during weekend hours when the faculty does not need the space. Campus Safety was clear that this has been a problem in the past. This privilege will remain only as long as students are responsible about removing their cars from faculty and administrative lots before Monday morning. While this seems like a small victory, it is nonetheless proof that the administration is listening to our complaints and suggestions.

Director of Campus Safety Frank Coots commented: "Everyone wants to be heard and [to feel] that their opinions matter." He continued, "I think we can use this particular issue to open more dialogue and explore new quality of life issues that will benefit everyone." On that note, it seems worth considering what other "quality of life issues" ought to be on the docket. This category can be divided into two sub-groups: the tangibles and the intangibles.

Tangible issues include those aspects of student life that are directly linked to living on a small liberal arts campus; things like where we can park, what our housing and meal plan limitations might look like, how often the bathrooms are cleaned, etc.

The intangibles are--naturally--more challenging to nail down. This April, students are speaking up in favor of neurodiversity, drawing attention to sexual assault prevention and addressing queer intersectional subjects. None of these issues are easy and they may lead to uncomfortable conversations, yet we remain confident that the community's capacity for empathy, understanding and action will produce positive results. We applaud the courage of our student body to talk about difficult subjects, and we encourage those who have not been exposed to these perspectives to attend the events on campus this month.

The constructive conversations around intangible issues, as well as the tangible successes, perpetuate a positive campus culture that make Hamilton a worthwhile experience.

**The Spectator**

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***The Spectator*** **is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

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*Celebrating 169 years, we were first published as* The Radiator *in 1848.*

## Letters to the Editor Policy

*The Spectator's* Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

*The Spectator* has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

## About Us

*The Hamilton College* Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

# Student Assembly's forum just a first: with dialogue established, time for action

**by Will Kaback '20 and Cesar Renero '17**
*Opinion Editor and Senior Editor*

By now, I think it is likely that the majority of the Hamilton community has read, or at least been made aware of, the minutes from this week's Student Assembly meeting and the issues that were raised within them. During a public comment period, voices from the community—both Student Assembly members and nonmembers—spoke on issues of representation, receptiveness and reconciliation in student government at the College. It was a complex and occasionally confrontational conversation, one that no doubt left many feeling unsatisfied or frustrated as a result.

To say that holding this forum was necessary would be an understatement. Recent Student Assembly discussions have dealt with issues like the availability of feminine hygiene products, improving access to the Days-Massolo Center and facilitating greater inclusivity on campus. The letter of resignation published by former class of 2020 representative Katherine Barnes '20 highlighted her concerns with Student Assembly itself. She wrote that Student Assembly "is not an inclusive space that represents every student on this campus," adding, "just because no one blatantly says anything racist, homophobic, transphobic or misogynistic does not mean it is not present in every meeting."

Barnes's letter may have been the final domino to fall in the lead-up to this week's forum, but it was far from the first time such critiques have been directed at Student Assembly. In the months following the election and inauguration of President Trump, discussions around race, gender and class have taken on a layer of added importance. And while I do not think anyone would argue that the prevalence of these issues at the College pale in comparison to the Trump administration, that does not mean we are exempt from addressing them where they arise. In doing so, however, we must work to ensure that conversations turn into initiatives, and initiatives into action. It is easy to point to problems and acknowledge them, but unless this dialogue transitions into change, it becomes little more than empty posturing.

First, we must recognize that there is a general sentiment around campus that Student Assembly is not representative of the entire student body, especially with regard to students of color. This issue, however, is not exclusive to Student Assembly, as student-led activities like *The Spectator*, Tour Guides and Greek societies continue to come to terms with their own membership makeup. We also should acknowledge that many students coming from marginalized backgrounds often find an important support system and safe space in multicultural organizations, yet the conversations within these spaces rarely permeate our general conversation. That is not to say these students are somehow guarding their dialogue or attempting to make it exclusive; rather, this reality suggests that groups like Student Assembly need to make more of an effort to seek out these points of view instead of expecting it to come to them.

Next, our student body as a whole must reevaluate the opportunities every student has to join a club of their choice. There is an embedded element of privilege in these larger student groups, as they consume time and resources while often offering little to no remuneration. Students who are assigned work-study, and thus depend on their jobs for their expenses, will be less inclined to join a society or organization if that translates to a tradeoff between the club or earning cash. If a need for income precludes such an extracurricular, it should be the entire community's responsibility to find ways to ensure that all students, regardless of background, have an equal chance and an equal voice.

HTTP://MAXPIXEL.FREEGREATPICTURE.COM/STATIC

As agreeable as these goals might be, they remain lofty and difficult to attain. There is a delicate balance between pushing for greater equality and creating new problems as a result of these efforts. For instance, in seeking out and providing an equal platform for voices from marginalized communities, we must also avoid asking these voices to speak generally for their entire community as though all members of a certain race, gender or class share the same concerns or desires. Implicit in any effort to address intersectionality and equality is the potential for allies to contribute unknowingly to the original issue. Rather than acting as a deterrent for further action, this possibility should push us to double down on our commitment to heed all perspectives and consider their merits as a community.

Those searching for precedent at the College on these issues should look no further than the Movement. A student-led organization founded in 2013, the group sought to "encourage inclusion across all lines of difference and promote an awareness of the experiences of historically marginalized groups at Hamilton College." They published a detailed list of goals and demands for the Hamilton community and hung signs around campus to increase visibility. The Movement was successful both in mobilizing action within the student body and providing a platform for community members to share their experiences at the College. They gained national attention and played a singular role in facilitating the creation of an institutional board called "The Inclusion Task Force," whose purpose is "to assess the campus climate for students from historically underrepresented groups and identify specific ways to ensure that all students have equal opportunities to thrive at Hamilton, academically and socially."

Additionally, as Student Assembly and other student-run organizations look to spur these initiatives, President Wippman should serve as a shining example of how to bridge divides and promote action. Despite being at the College for less than a year, Wippman has shown an innate ability for taking on challenges quickly and with open ears. Aside from his previous career as a lawyer, in which he consistently defended marginalized voices against multinational corporations and protected human rights, his role in responding to polarizing events on campus, like the aftermath of the election and President Trump's travel ban, demonstrate a keen awareness of the importance of initiating action before the demand comes to him. While all can and should be a part of the process of improving our community, larger organizations like Student Assembly and the administration must shoulder the majority of the impetus for seeing this change come to fruition.

The task ahead is neither simple or clear. It is, however, undeniably one we must take on. Having heard and recognized the concerns of those within our community, direct action is called for. This conversation is too important to exist only in words. Everyone can contribute to this effort, from President Wippman, to class representatives, to members of multicultural organizations, to professors, to the students who delete the Student Assembly minutes without so much as a cursory glance. With precedent for action clearly established, there is no excuse or rationale for treading water on this issue. No doubt there will be bumps along the way, but as this week's forum showed, allowing for continued discussion, even when it feels fruitless, is the only way to push forward.

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

Every day I'm still surprised by the fact that organizations (fraternities) built on policies of white supremacy, the enforcement of cisnormative binaries, heteronormativity, the dehumanization of women and a number of other destructive systems of oppression could somehow still carry these foundations into the present day.

Just kidding, this is not shocking at all.

Of course an institution's foundation will continue to influence its future, so maybe we should take a moment to consider how these organizations which are widely known to shelter all kinds of abusers might need some reformation or, dare I say it, disbanding.

Sincerely,

Tara Cicic '18

# FACE OFF: College Hill Pathway

## Pushback on pathway symptomatic of larger issues

**by Yassine Dahlek '19**
*Opinion Contributor*

At the Student Assembly meeting prior to the spring 2017 recess, someone made a request for a pathway by the Days-Massolo Center. Immediately, the administrator present and the ranking members of the Student Assembly dismissed the problem as unfeasible due to safety and liability issues. I pushed the Assembly to consider the larger issue at hand which is the lack of resources for students of color of campus. However, members of the assembly continued to reject the request without seeking to engage with the problem.

The Assembly is present to serve as a liaison between the student body and the administration and to convey the issues in question, not to disregard requests for aid and have that be the end of the issue. We as a collective student body should be concerned at the neglect shown to issues the student body has raised. Students of color gravely lack representation in the Assembly and the existing members demonstrate a lack of knowledge about the daily life of students of color on the Hill.

Evidence of the lack of diversity in Student Assembly has arisen in the wake of the subsequent meeting after the request was made for a walkway by the Days-Massolo Center. Members were dismissive and rude to certain students of color who voiced their opinion, and throughout the meeting particular members chatted amongst themselves and laughed while a student spoke to the necessities not being provided to them. An assembly member from the freshman class resigned after she witnessed the mockery of the issues of students of color on campus. Our system of communication to the administration has demonstrated its inability to engage with issues that plague students of color across the campus.

The issue at hand today is not that of a walkway to the Days-Massolo Center, but the lack of urgency in addressing the needs of students of color to the administration even when students demonstrate clear support for the request. There have been numerous instances during my two years here at Hamilton when the students of color have banded together to address their issues with the campus, such as last year's march in solidarity for offering Professor Reynaldo Ortiz another contract to remain at the institution and meetings with sections of the administration to acquire necessary halal food for the growing Muslim population on campus. Ultimately, both requests were dismissed and the problems at hand remained unresolved. Individually, these demands affect portions of the community to differing extents but collectively this is indicative of an environment lacking the necessary cultural and religious resources to foster an emotionally healthy student body. The new administration under President Wippman must take it upon itself to heed the voices of students of color and take more urgent steps to create an equitable environment for growth for all of its students.

On Nov. 13, 2015, Hamilton College students gathered at the Sadove Student Center to walk in solidarity to keep Professor Reynaldo Ortiz as a professor at Hamilton. Despite students' efforts, Professor Ortiz was not offered a new contract. How does one justify refusing to provide a new contract to a professor who galvanized the student body and provided emotional and academic support to the students of color on campus? The academic rigor of Professor Ortiz's courses was just as demanding as any other course on campus, and he revolutionized a whole generation of Hamilton students. Yet even with the academic success and growth in social consciousness demonstrated by his students and the demonstration of support from a sizable portion of Hamilton's student body, Professor Ortiz was let go at the end of the following semester.

A diverse student body requires a diverse faculty and staff in order to operate well. Sadly it took a march by hundreds of students to make the administration aware of this. While the demonstration did not succeed in keeping Professor Ortiz on campus, it did incite the administration to engage in job searches to address the lack of faculty and staff of color at Hamilton. We as students must ensure that our voices are heard during this process. We must attend job talks and speak to heads of departments to ensure that we bring these individuals to campus and that they become permanent fixtures on the Hill.

Prior to November break of this year, the Muslim Student Association members gathered alongside our advisor Professor Mireille Koukjian, to compile a list goals to make the Hill more comforting for marginalized groups on campus. What we saw as the most urgent issue to address was easily the lack of accessible halal food on Hamilton's campus. The dietary restrictions in Islam call for a specialized process in the harvesting of meat which makes it halal certified.

Halal meat providers exist across the United States, and vendors often supply college campuses. It is not an unreasonable request to ask for dietary accommodations. In fact, this is often a question on forms that first-year students fill out prior to arriving on campus. the Association arranged meetings to discuss this request, but the administration members in charge of food on campus rejected many solutions that we presented to them with no initiative to solve the larger issue at hand.

After March 27, 2017, Bon Appétit began serving one halal entree in Commons. This is a step in the right direction, but I can assure you that a single halal entree will not suffice in accommodating the growing Muslim population on campus. Halal food availability is a serious health concern for students on campus, and it is imperative that the administration moves swiftly to solve this problem.

The responsibility falls upon us, as students at Hamilton, to exhaust every method of engagement with the administration. I will be making appointments with members of the administration to discuss these issues, and I encourage my fellow students to attend assembly meetings and visit President Wippman during his open hours. It is also necessary for the administration as a whole to engage more with students and their organizations. As students, we are asking for the College to move expeditiously toward providing a healthy environment for all students on campus. *I do not* seek to diminish the initiative of the new administration in addressing these issues. It is key, however, that we students of Hamilton College show the administration the urgency of the current situation.

## Pathway unfeasible for safety reasons

**by Jon Kirshenbaum '19**
*Opinion Contributor*

I would like to start by voicing my appreciation for being able to utilize this forum to talk about an important discussion which has been taking place in Student Assembly meetings and in smaller settings throughout campus. I am thrilled to work with my classmate, Yassine Dahlek, to inform and expand the campus dialogue, and I hope that this forum will continue as an avenue for thoughtful discussion. A quick aside: I serve as one of the student representatives for the Class of 2019 delegation to the Student Assembly. The views in this piece are entirely my own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Assembly or of its members.

The particular catalyst for writing this article was a conversation first formally introduced on Feb. 20, 2017 regarding the construction of a paved pathway leading from College Hill Road to the sidewalk that services the Days-Massolo Center, the Afro-Latin Cultural Center and the Philosophy Department offices located at 202 College Hill Road. Students initially raised the issue to one of my colleagues on the 2019 class delegation, Adrian Summers, after which he brought it to the attention of the Central Council. Concerned students felt that it was unsafe and unfair to ask them to walk through the snow, mud, dirt, etc. that accumulates there in order for them to reach the treated sidewalk leading up to their destination. Emely Rojas '20, present at one of our later discussions, remarked "...with the snow and weather it gets kind of dark and you don't know what you're walking into. I had new white shoes and they got muddy. It is a hassle" (SA minutes). Hannah Fink '19 offered an additional comment on her concerns with safety: "...I have had friends who have slipped and fell, and it is a hassle to walk through snow and mud."

At our next meeting, we were fortunate enough to be joined by Steve Bellona, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Planning to discuss a number of issues, one of which regarded the discussion of the pathway from the previous week. At this second meeting, a number of students expressed feelings that the lack of a pathway between the street and the sidewalk signaled a disrespect on the part of the College towards its cultural centers and the students who utilize them.

The principle element of the exchange centers around a much broader social phenomenon: how we approach organizations that predominantly serve minority student populations (on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, politics, etc). On these grounds, I offer no dispute, nor do I make any attempt to qualify the missions of said organizations and their members—not only is it not my place to do so, but because I lack sufficient background as a member of their focus community, I am also not able to make fully-informed judgements about their validity. In this respect I am in full support of Yassine's position and of the cause of those students looking to encourage broader interaction with our campus' cultural organizations, for they offer invaluable resources for mindful expansion. College campuses, especially liberal arts college campuses, are the cradle of formative engagement with identities and opinions other than our own, and regardless of one's individual beliefs, we all stand to benefit from an exhaustive representation of diverse points of view.

This particular instance is an unsuitable exemplification of that broader objective. To build the sort of footpath that interested parties envision, Physical Plant would have to rip up and resurface an area roughly 12 to 18 feet long and roughly 42 inches wide. In addition to that, they would have to remove the several concrete slabs that currently constitute the curbside in these areas in order to make such a pathway not only feasible, but at least marginally handicapped-accessible.

The fact that this would already be a significant landscaping project, not to mention that nowhere else between the lower limits of Anderson and the upper limits of Griffin Road is there an unmarked pedestrian pathway leading directly into the street on College Hill Road. On the safety note, Bellona had this to say, "My concern is with the safety of the students. Anytime I think about putting a pathway up to College Hill Rd. it implies that we as Hamilton think it is okay to cross here... Personally I would really like to take them out" (SA minutes). If you look at safety through the lens of injury liability, Bellona and the College are rightfully concerned. Conor O'Shea, a member of the Class of the 2018 delegation also pointed out that legal settlements can easily reach 7-8 figures.

Mr. Bellona also advised that in the winter, the proposed pathway would not be treated or plowed because it would exist as an unofficial crossing point. If any of you have ever had to walk over an untreated sidewalk, then you know that it is often no better, or even markedly worse than walking over natural terrain.

Finally, there are conditions that must be met which are out of the College's control. According to Mr. Bellona, the site of the proposed pathway would need to be extensively surveyed in order to ensure that there would be no compromise to the underground sewer system. Additionally, even if the College were in favor of this project, they have to consult and get zoning permission from the local government public works division before breaking ground on construction work, especially one that affects a public road.

I understand the desire on behalf of the individuals who attended our meeting looking to improve the accessibility of cultural community centers, but upon consultation with the relevant administrative figures and due to the marginal benefit to pedestrian accessibility, I feel it most appropriate not to support this venture.

# Bachelor and Bachelorette

## *Anna E. Arnn '17*

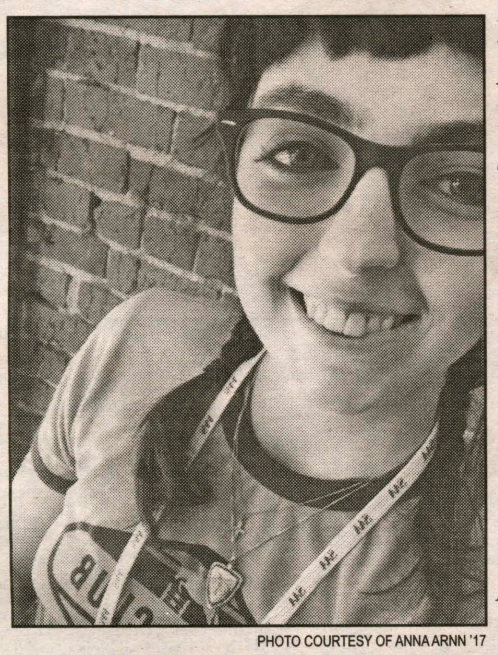
PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA ARNN '17

**Hometown:** *Pittsburgh, PA.*
**Home on Campus:** *Skenandoa (+honorary member of MoHo003).*
**Major:** *Archaeology, with minors in biology and chemistry.*
**Turn On?** *Intellect.*
**Turn Off?** *Entitlement.*
**If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** *Sken probably because it's chill but also a little extra.*

**If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why?** *Paul Simon and 2005 Carrie Underwood (think "Before He Cheats"), but I wouldn't mind being raised by Tracy Chapman and/or Cher.*
**What TV genre best describes you?** *In my mind, David Lynch. In reality, British dramas with a strong female lead.*
**If you were any social space, what would it be?** *The area between the Barn and the Annex because it's like "do I really want to be here or do I just want to go home?"*
**What's your patronus and why?** *Pottermore says it would be a St. Bernard? *shrugging woman emoji*.*
**If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose?** *That's cute.*
**Who would you say is your campus crush?** *Hands down, Margaret Laurel Boyd. Or the hockey team (congrats you guys!)*
**Who would you say is your faculty crush?** *Cynthia Downs//Peter Millet//Lily McArn.*
**What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?** *Some zebrafish embryos, assorted pieces of obsidian, an "Accounting for Dummies" book that I keep thinking I'll read and a box of suture materials.*
**If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense?** *Microagressions and misogyny.*
**What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?** *Most recently, in Canada, someone came up to me and said: "¡Hola! ¿Nos conocimos en París?" Given my unparalleled foresight and quick wit, I said "¡No!" and walked away.*
**What's your type?** *Helvetica or Garamond when I'm keeping things casual, but Times New Roman when it's time to get down to business ;)*
**Lights on or lights off?** *Conventional lights off, lava lamps on.*
**What would your perfect date be?** *April 7 because it's my birthday, everyone!!!!*

## *Angelo J. Morlani '17*

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELO MORLANI '17

**Hometown:** *Wilmington, MA.*
**Home on Campus:** *Babbitt.*
**Major:** *Economics.*
**Turn On?** *Laughing at my jokes.*
**Turn Off?** *Failing to laugh at my obviously hilarious jokes.*
**If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** *Babbit because it's big and there is frequently weed smoke coming out of it.*

**If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why?** *Elton John and Mariah Carey—if you know me personally, I don't really need to explain why.*
**What TV genre best describes you?** *Musicals—I break out into song fairly frequently.*
**Lights on or off?** *Lights off to reduce my carbon footprint, obviously.*
**What's your type?** *Type 1 (My boyfriend is diabetic).*
**What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?** *I once very seriously used, "Is that a shovel in your back pocket? Because I'm digging that ass." And it worked.*
**If you were any social space, what would it be?** *The Hub because there are vending machines in the basement for spur-of-the moment snacking.*
**If you were a food, which would you be and why?** *A Sour Patch Kids because when you meet me: first I'm sour, then I'm sweet.*
**If you could join one group on campus, what would it be?** *Ideally, The Small Group of People That Angelo Morlani Respects, but I've heard that's hard to get into.*
**If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose?** *Not wiping down the machines in the gym after using them.*
**What are three things you cannot live without?** *Gym, tan, laundry.*
**What's your patronus and why?** *A house cat because I'm lazy and disinterested in most things besides food.*
**Where do you go when you want to be alone?** *A practice room in List or my bedroom.*
**What's the weirdest thing currently in your room?** *My friend Jess. We're watching a movie together as I write this.*
**What whould you say is your campus crush?** *That one guy on the hockey team with the big butt. You know the one.*
**What would you say is your faculty crush?** *Chaise LaDousa 150 percent.*
**What would you give a thumbs up?** *Dank memes.*

# Spring cleaning: Bed bugs

## Around the Corner

*Fun events happening in April*

**by Cilly Geranios '19**
*Features Co-Editor*

- **13** *Cheese Tasting in Sadove living room, 4-5:30 p.m.*
- **17** *Tasting Vegan options in Sadove Living room, 4-5:30 p.m.*
- **21** *"Senior Sendoff" in Sadove Living room. Write letters to graduating seniors 4-5:30 p.m.*
- **21** *"Paint 'n Sip" with alcoholic beverages (must be 21 and over) in Sadove living room, 4:30-6:30 p.m.*
- **27** *A TBD movie in Sadove living room, 7-9 p.m.*

**by Madeleine Maher '18**
*Editor-in-Chief*

On Tuesday, April 4, Campus Safety Director Francis Coots introduced himself to Student Assembly with a topic to remember: bed bugs. Coots, as well as Associate Dean of Students for Health and Safety Jeff Landry, informed SA that bed bugs were recently discovered on campus, but that Physical Plant is already on top of the extermination process so there is no need to panic.

One infestation site has already been identified, deep-cleaned and fumigated, and bug-sniffing dogs will scope out the rest of campus over the next few days. Once Physical Plant assesses the situation and determines where the bed bugs are on campus, they will proceed with an external pest control operator and develop room-specific treatment plans for infested areas.

In the meantime, here are a few useful facts and tips on how to stay calm and handle the bed bug breakout.

**What are bed bugs?**

Bed bugs, or *Cimex lectularia*, are oval shaped, flat, brown to reddish-brown insects that typically grow to an average of five millimeters in length. While they are difficult to spot, bed bugs produce a distinct odor described by the Environmental Protection Agency as "musty—sweetish" scent. While the Environmental Protection Agency, the Center for Disease Control and the United States Department of Agriculture all classify bed bugs as a public health pest, there is no need to break out the hazmat suits just yet. Bed bugs feed on mammalian and avian blood, and their bites may leave itchy bites that cause skin irritation, but they do not transmit or spread diseases of any kind.

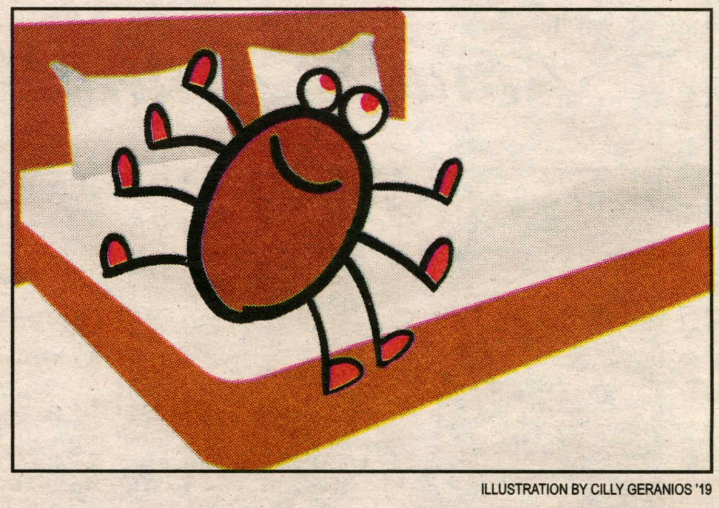

ILLUSTRATION BY CILLY GERANIOS '19

**Bed bug misconceptions:**

*If I get bed bugs, I need to throw away all fabric-based belongings.*

Nope! Washing clothes, sheets, and other belongings on high heat settings for 60 minutes can kill both bed bug eggs and full grown insects.

*Bed bugs reproduce rapidly.*

Unlike most insects, female bed bugs typically only lay one egg per day. Breakouts occur, however, because bed bugs are expert hitchhikers. They easily latch on to clothes, backpacks, and other fabric-based belongings.

*Bed bugs live in dirty places.*

Bed bugs are not partial to unhygienic locations. They do, however, thrive in cluttered environments where they can stay easily hidden, so take this as an opportunity to do some spring cleaning!

**What can we do to wrap up this bed bug fiasco?**

While Physical Plant will deal with the bulk of the bed bug extermination, there are still a few things that Hamilton students can do to keep our campus itch-free. If you suspect a bed bug breakout in your room or residence hall, report it to your Residential Advisor and to Physical Plant immediately. If you have bed bug bites, contact the health center for further treatment plans. Most importantly, *do not panic!* Bed bugs are gross and pesky, but they do not pose any major health and safety risks, and Physical Plant has plans to exterminate them well under way.

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As we approach the second-to-last month of the academic year, why not celebrate by becoming a pro on all things April? This crossword features anything from holidays to Hamilton-related events. (P.S., the more people who fill this out, the sooner warm weather will come).

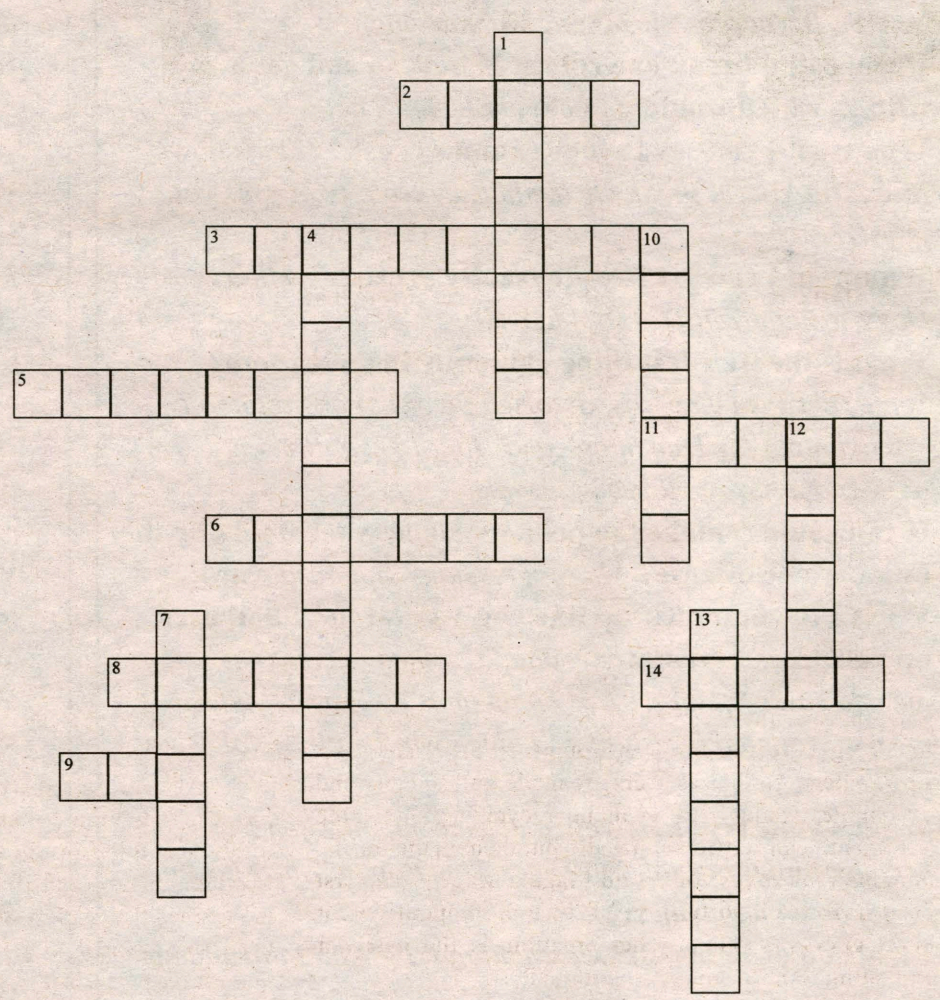
**by Cilly Geranios '19 and Molly Geisinger '19**
*Features Editors*

**Across:**

2. Astrological sign for birthdays between March and April.
3. A holiday for pranks.
5. April 20 marks a day for appreciation of a plant in the Cannabaceae family.
6. April is the name of a long-necked, spotted mammal about to give birth.
8. Residential Life's busiest weeks in April are during the regular and substance-free _____ lottery.
9. April celebrates people's appreciation for this three-letter sandwich containing meat, fruit and a vegetable.
11. Christians celebrate this spring holiday and children search for candy-filled plastic eggs.
14. The official flower of the month.

**Down:**

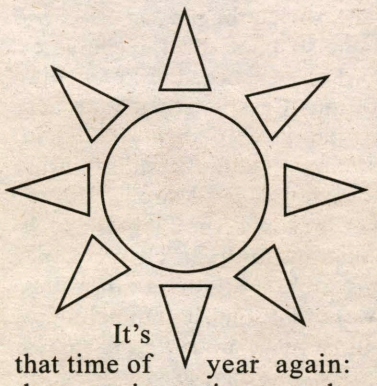
1. These are a girl's best friend.
4. You must be cleared by advisors before participation in this academic-related period.
7. This month is also National _____ Month. (Hint: Dickinson, Whitman, Frost, Wilde, Plath)
10. These bring May flowers.
12. Astrological sign for birthday between April and May.
13. A major festival that celebrates the story of the Exodus.



**Answers from last crossword:** ACROSS: 4. prank, 8. congress, 9. April Fool's Day, 11. argh, 13. toes-day, 18. acupuncture, 19. flush, 20. resisting a rest, 21. picket, 22. feedback. DOWN: 1. pun, 2. rush hour, 3. will, 5. reality, 6. fryday, 7. two-tired, 9. alarms, 10. duty, 12. gotcha, 14. Sir Cumference, 15. joke, 16. cauterize, 17. inverse.

# SPRING YOUR WARMER WARDROBE

**by Maura Colley '19**
*Staff Wrtier*



It's that time of year again: the snow is starting to melt, leaves are returning to the trees, the Canada geese are slowly migrating away from Hamilton, sunglasses and sunny days are coming back and getting to afternoon classes is getting harder and harder. That's right everyone, we're almost there, springtime at Hamilton is just around the corner.

Blame it on the fleeting spring break—always a tease for students who've spent their precious two weeks in more tropical climates, only to return to the tundra once more—but as we get closer to warm weather, all of Hamilton gets spring fever. Suddenly the jackets are gone, and campus is a rainbow-colored array of dresses, tee-shirts, hats and even some colorful pants here and there. The black leggings and jeans are nowhere to be seen, and we forget that those Adirondack chairs were ever buried under several feet of snow.

But don't let the spring fever get the best of you just yet – those afternoon classes will still demand that you sit inside, even when it's sunny and 75. Here's a few tips for how to get through this spring season without going too crazy or ditching classes just as we get to final essays and exams.

First things first: as we get closer to spring, watch your weather apps. Don't let that sunny Thursday afternoon surprise you. Get out of whatever you have to ahead of time, finish whatever extra assignments are still hanging over you so that when the sun comes out you can take advantage of the whole day.

Second of all, get those spring clothes back out here. Shorts, skirts, pants, flip-flops (woah okay maybe not quite yet, let's chill with the sandals for at least another three weeks) are all welcome at Hamilton again. Sure, we might have a couple more spring showers that you could use a coat for, but you better keep those winter jackets where they belong: hung up until next year.

There are a few spring essentials, though, that we can finally bring back. Sunglasses for sure—as many pairs and colors as you can find. Some people go for the aviators, the ray-bans or John Lennon glasses, but one thing you can depend on is that they'll all be reflective andmirrored this year.

Check out your Instagram, and you'll see what we mean—the mirrored-glasses trend is real, and it's a pretty cute look that makes for a fun sunny-day outfit. Then, get yourself some comfy-cute shorts, a cool tee-shirt and tank for good measure, and you'll be set to conquer that first spring day in style.

Stylish as we may be, even the best-dressed Hamiltonian knows that there are some days that we just can't predict. Didn't think there could be light snow, sunshine, rain, clouds and sun again all in one day? Think again! Upstate New York is wild every season, and spring is no different.

So say it's rainy and you have to walk from the science center to KJ—you wouldn't want to ruin those nice white Adidas. Stay prepared Hammy: keep those Hunter boots at the ready, and have an umbrella just in case. And if all else fails, go to admissions and pretend you're there for a tour. Guaranteed Hamilton poncho.

Meanwhile, everyone's ready to get outside on the weekends. Take your sunglasses to G-road or Minor Field and spend a goooood day in the sun with everyone else.

We've had feet on feet on feet of snow—Hamilton even closed for a day or two this year. When has that ever happened? Let's forget about the past couple months, and get ready for the last few that we have here at camp Hammy.

Finals and theses might take some of the life out of the party, but don't let them ruin your spring. Get out there and darty, Hamilton. That tan, those days on the quad and the sun: after this winter we deserve it.

# From Trash To Fashion

**by Michelle Chung '20**
*Staff Wrtier*

From paper cups and old posters to plastic bags and empty bottles, it's easy to forget about other uses for our unused trash before tossing it into the waste bin (or hopefully recycling bin). As shown by the annual Trashion Show, hosted by the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators (HSC), however, trash can have a purpose.

Founded in 2013, the "Trashion" show was created as a way to promote the initiatives emphasized in Recyclemania, an eight-week competition on college campuses which encourages students to recycle. Students can participate individually or as part of a team and have the opportunity to win cash prizes of up to $150 by creating outfits using recycled materials.

Designs are judged mainly on creativity. This year, President David Wippman and Assistant Professor of Geoscience, Cat Beck, judged how contestants could turn everyday materials (that people usually throw away without a second thought) into impressive, innovative designs.

"It is really cool in the show to see all the types of materials people are able to find around campus," Jacqueline Guyol '17 of the HSC said. "Many of the items can be recycled, but are more commonly found in the trash."

Sarah Magee '18 made an outfit with a skirt which was made out of old posters hung up around campus. "The posters are made out of paper and can be recycled, but people usually put them in the trash," said Magee. Magee won first place in the competition for her creation as the designer and model.

Second-place winners Maddy Fredrick '17, Olivia Box '17 and Maggie Smith '17 received compliments on their design made entirely out of newspaper, worn by Mary Langworthy '17. Held together by just tape, the outfit mimicked a suit for a businesswoman and featured a small flower made out of recycled material on the side. This outfit provided an alternative use for the material, displyaing how easily paper can be resused rather than thrown away.

In third place, Mirsades Raber-Dunning '18 presented an outfit that included pages from old magazines as well as kraft paper from a mailed package she received which was filled with the material. With all the kraft paper she had been shipped (where the only other thing inside was a tiny tampon box) and all of the magazines that weren't being used, she wanted to give the materials a purpose rather than just throwing them away, creating a stylish long dress for model Liz Lvov '17 to wear.

Altogether, the HSC's main goal is to make the campus more sustainable. As an organization that works under Physical Plant, HSC has, in the past, designed and distributed recycling posters as well as collaborated on ideas to increase sustainability.

Currently, the HSCs are working on creating pollinator gardens in abandoned, green spaces on campus and brainstorming new ways to educate students on how to reduce food waste.

While some people may see their trash as worthless, a piece of waste or no longer usable, others just might find a way to make it treasurable. The Trashion Show is just one of the many ways to remind ourselves that recycling can still be fun and interesting —and important.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHUNG '20

**Participants could compete as either the designers and/or models, allowing for more collaboration.**

# From classic to modern: The Acting Company's rendition of *Julius Caesar*

**By Tayzia Santiago '19**
*A&E Contributor*

This past weekend, April 1 and 2, The Acting Company visited Hamilton College to showcase two plays they prepared in conjunction: *X*, or *Betty Shabazz v. The Nation* by Marcus Gardley and *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare. The Acting Company, founded in 1972 by John Houseman and Margot Harley, is the only permanent, professional touring company dedicated to the development of classical actors.

*Julius Caesar*, the classic play by arguably the greatest playwright in history, William Shakespeare, was performed on Sunday.

The hour and a half-long production was shortened from the original version, with some scenes cut and some lines moved around. Because the cast was relatively small, most actors played several different roles.

The play opened with an ominous scene of a woman singing and a soothsayer donning long dreadlocks, a limp and a brown piece of material he had wrapped around his shoulders and head. The woman sang haunting tones to ease into the scene, then the soothsayer hissed about prophecies of what was to come.

This underscored the mystical aspects of the play right out of the gate, a motif carried through the play with events such as Calpurnia's premonition and the appearance of Julius Caesar's ghost.

PHOTO COURTESY OF T. CHARLES ERICKSON

**The Acting Company actors potray characters Brutus and Cassius in the timless historical play, *Julius Ceasar.***

Additionally, the company included a statue of Caesar toward the back of the stage that was present in nearly every scene, at least until the actor who played Caesar replaced the statue as the ghost.

This staging decision created a physical embodiment of Caesar's presence within the play as a whole. Although he speaks only 135 of the 2,459 lines, Julius Caesar is the driving force of the entire play. His assassination plummets the plot into an entire war.

This rendition of Julius Caesar was dominated by strong acting and bold directing choices. All actors were clearly experienced, and their confidence and commitment to the roles definitely carried the play.

They also made specific character choices. For instance, the actor who played Caius Cassius created a much stronger character than portrayed in the written play, almost undermining the actor who played Marcus Brutus. On paper, Brutus comes across as the protagonist and the tragic character because his strongest motivation resides in the welfare of the Roman people.

In this play, however, Cassius comes across more as the wise protagonist who has to deal with the stupidity and naivety of Brutus.

The boldest directing choices came in the second half of the play, after Caesar's assassination. In the beginning, actors dressed in Roman clothing from the time period; however, when the war begins, actors are in modern military gear.

This transition springs when the final moment of assassination finishes with a gunshot. Although this bold choice made for an interesting transition, the fact that the transition was relatively abrupt and the suicides were still performed with swords felt awkward.

In any case, overall, this production was a high-quality, compelling rendition of a classic.

# La Vanguardia hosts "Cine Latino"

**By Andres Aguilar '19**
*A&E Contributor*

On Friday night, La Vanguardia (LV) presented one of their signature programs of the semester: *Cine Latino*. Historically, *Cine Latino* began as The Sacramento International Latino Film Festival in 2007. Over time, *Cine Latino* has grown to be world-wide affaire, celebrating important Latinx films throughout the year.

The e-board members got the night rolling; they popped the corn, laid out Goya cookies and prepared their famous hot chocolate, Chocolate Abuelita. They transformed the Afro LatinX basement into their personalized home theatre. Traditionally, LV allows its audience to choose their film for the night. This year's choices ranged options such as *Selena*, *Chef*, *Cuatro Lunas*, *Frida*, and *Cesar Chavez*.

With a majority vote, *Cesar Chavez* won. Without the audience knowing, that day, March 31st, was Cesar Chavez Day. It seemed highly appropriate and significant to watch a historical leader for our Latinx people and others to view the history of the National Farmworkers Association, which helped fight racial and economic decriminalization against Chicano residents and, at large, allowed farmers to unionize.

If the farmers unionized, they would have had a collective voice to secure raises and improve working conditions for the Chicano population.

As the movie began, young, passioante Cesar Chavez (portrayed by Michael Peña) revolutionizes and unionizes farm workers for their hard work in the blazing sun. As Chavez saw appropriate, he and his family move to the city of Delano, California to begin the work of changing the racial and economic discrimination against Chicano farm workers. This is when Chavez begins the National Farmworkers Association.

In time, Chavez, as a leader, sees the need to be united with his Filipino siblings, as they too are targeted minorities suffering from harsh racial and economic oppression on farms. Chavez and his union vowed to join a strike that had been initiated by the Filipino farmworkers against Delano's grape fields. Chavez successfully forges an alliance.

Throughout the film, Chavez urges nonviolent strategies to combat aggressive farm owners and fight the oppression these populations currently face. Many farmers were subjected to terrible working conditions in the blazing sun for long hours without access to water. As Chavez organizes the people, he grows in influence. He leads a march to Sacramento that draws national attention and launches a boycott of California grapes.

Chavez gains a powerful ally, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Kennedy, engages in congressional hearings. Senator Kennedy promotes the need to fight for what was necessary to move forwards as a united group to develop a just America. During an angry encounter between farm owners and protesters, however, Chavez realizes he has failed in conducting a nonviolent protest to end the racial and economic oppression of his people.

Chavez vows to fast until all his folloers swear to continue on their journey without violence. With a 25 day fast, Chavez grows weak. Nonetheless, he successfully encourages his supporters and followers in recommitting to their cause to promote justice for all farmers who were being oppressed and marginalized.

In spite of the progress, everything changes with the assassination of President Kennedy, which brings a cold chill for Chavez's movement. President Nixon is sworn into office and negotiates with California Grapes. He promises the owners that their product will be sold overseas to their ally, Britain, or bought for the US military. Because of Chavez's resilient personality and devotion to his movement, he does not give in.

Chavez flies to Britain. He did radio interviews and meets with Britain officials to successfully dismantle President Nixon's negotiations with California Grapes. Under such pressure from the media and their decline in economic revenue, the owners of California Grapes have no choice but to negotiate with the, now, National Farm Workers Association about their living wages and conditions on their farms.

Cesar Chavez was a hero who learned from his own experiences to promote the necessary change for his people and those who united with us. His experiences and approach with nonviolence protest allowed him to successfully change the conditions of many people, not just for his Chicano people.

With such a great ending of triumph, resilience and justice, Cine Latino proudly presented *Cesar Chavez*. While watching the film, I was inspired by the work Chavez did for my people. I constantly found myself angered at the outright discrimination and hatred they experienced. The movie proudly gives justice to the injustices of how wealthy, white owners saw and treated mi gente.

I would highly recommend everyone to watch this film, especially those who don't know the realities of immigrant workers who are brought into the United States. Even though Cesar Chavez and his history is now behind us, it not to be forgotten that our struggle does not end here. With great unity comes grand passion for change.

*Remember, You and I make up LV ! Moving forward, LV will continue to project a positive image of LatinX cultures while exposing the LatinX experience, communities and politics to the Hamilton community in order to broaden the community's awareness of issues related to the LatinX culture.*

# Latino singer-songwriter Polanco brings a unique perspective to BLSU event

**By Cimone Jordan '19**
*A&E CONTRIBUTOR*

In extending our programming this semester, BLSU sought to incorporate smaller scale performances in order to expose the Hamilton community to newer Black and Latinx artists.

This past Thursday, members and attendees were serenaded by Ivan Polanco and his drummer in the Sadove Living Room. Polanco performed an array of music that included personal selections as well as songs by famous artists.

As a singer, song-writer and musician, his triple threat skills were reflected in his performance and delivery.

Between selections, he explained his journey as a musician and how his life experiences heavily influenced the content of his lyrics.

Being of Filipino and Dominican heritage, many of his songs had reggaeton and bachata roots while others are more influenced by R&B, pop, rock and blues. In addition to touring college campuses, Polanco has also performed in local cafes and Latinx banquets.

His performance was memorable not only because of his smooth vocals, but also because of his inspiring backstory that he shared. During the Q&A Session with attendees, he spoke in depth about having two persistent parents who encouraged determination and education. Despite having him at a young age, they were determined to establish a future for their children. As Ivan aged and joined the world of music, he faced the challenge of being regarded as a stereotypical Latinx artist that sang only in Spanish.

By allowing his talent to speak for him and guide his musical career, he was able to overcome opposition from employers and venue owners, thus accomplishing his goals.

Despite having toured across the United States, Polanco remains tied not only to his Dominican roots but also to his inner-city roots. In general, heightened production and endless funding can often lead to musicians forgetting about their native communities. Ivan is the opposite in that he pays homage to his home. Many of his music videos are filmed New York City, specifically the Bronx.

A native Bronx individual Adrian Summers '19 attested to this in saying: "a lot of artists these days are willing to sacrifice where they come from for the money and the fame but it's powerful to see someone have a successful career without sacrificing those things... him filming in the Bronx and always returning, shows kids that there's hope. The fact that he comes back indicates to them that you don't have to sacrifice your integrity and roots. You can still be on the rise and in the prime of your career. Also, as a native Bronx person, I am happy to see someone throw some respect on the borough."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CIMONE JORDAN '19

**Polanco shares personal experience as an aspiring Latinx musician along with showcasing his artistic, musical talents.**

Ultimately, having Ivan Polanco with us for the day was a treat. It was great to be encouraged by someone from an urban environment that is successful while having experienced hardships associated with being a person of color from an inner-city environment.

Attendees and general members of BLSU were able to enjoy a performance along with a few words of wisdom, thus making the event a success.

# *X*: The remarkable portrayal of an American legend

**By Edgar Otero '20**
*A&E STAFF WRITER*

On Saturday, April 1, the Acting Company presented *X,* or *Betty Shabazz V. The Nation* in Wellin Hall. The play, written by award-winning writer Marcus Gardley, examines the life of Malcolm X, one of our nation's most multifaceted and intriguing historical figures, and illuminates the seldom-heard story behind his assassination through the framework of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

Members of the Hamilton community were introduced to a vivid portrayal of the evolution of a national leader during the era of activism of the 1960s, and the side of him that was hidden from the public eye.

X, played by Jimonn Cole, was depicted as a man struggling to balance the weight of the world and his obligations to those who molded him as an influencial poltical figure during an age of rampant injustice and uncertainty in the nation. Aside from chronicling critical moments in X's public and private life, the court case of Betty Shabazz, his widowed wife, versus the Nation of Islam, the religious community that welcomed him as a protégé, provided an intriguing subplot throughout the show. Both sides of the story attempted to untangle a series of falsehoods and cover-ups to reveal the truth behind the plot that resulted in X's assassination.

Nonetheless, a sense of humor was ever-present throughout the production, which added to its vivacity. The play was highly interactive with the audience, as the characters were constantly addressing and involving the crowd in the on-stage series of events that unfolded, whether it was clapping at key moments on cue or rising from their seats as the fictional jury in the story.

*X* depicted themes such as trustfamily as each character was interconnected in a web that challenged them in the face of adversity. While Malcolm X fought for the advancement of his people in a time of racial turmoil, he was also fighting to solidify his devotion to loved ones and finding a balance between following his convictions and surrendering to the will of those who took him under their wing and turned him into an icon.

X had difficulty finding a channel of communication with his beloved, and his character was tested on several occasions when it came to preserving his identity and acting in the face of opposition from those within his circle of trust and from outside forces threatening to overthrow his rise to power and influence.

The play was unique in its overall presentation of the life and legacy of Malcolm X. From the commitment to realistic portrayals of the past to the stunning visual and auditory effects with lighting and sound, X was pleasing to the senses and kept viewers on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

The characters dazzled the audience with their vibrant personalities and the gripping plot that unraveled. It served to shed light on the truth behind one of history's most enigmatic figures and filled in the gaps to complete a holistic picture of the man, the myth and the legend that is Malcolm X.

PHOTO COURTESY OF T. CHARLES ERICKSON

***X* encapsulates the hidden conflicts in the life of one of the most prominent activists in American history, Malcolm X.**

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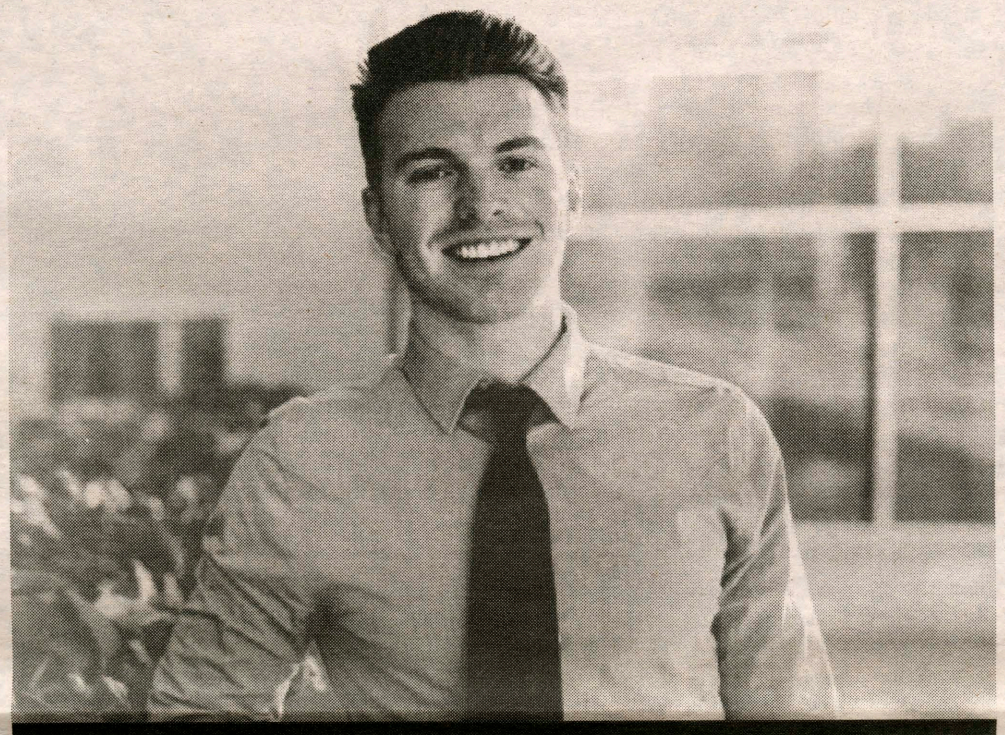

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# LaVar Ball's outspokenness is beneficial for his sons and the sport of basketball

**by Patrick Malin '18**
*Sports Editor*

LaVar Ball is a genius. March Madness 2017 came to an unspectacular close on Monday night, capping off three weeks of buzzer beaters and busted brackets. Some argue that University of North Carolina forward Luke Maye stole the show with his game-winning jumper against the University of Kentucky (and his attendance at his 8:00am class the next morning). Others point to the swarming defense of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, or the NCAA Championship debut of Gonzaga University. Some may even look towards the Women's bracket where Mississippi State prevented the UCONN Huskies from winning 112 straight games. LaVar Ball, father of UCLA guard Lonzo, however, stood out as the tournament's "shining moment."

LaVar Ball's three sons have vaulted to the forefront of national attention not only for their basketball abilities, but also for the outrageous soundbites from their father, LaVar. Lonzo, the oldest Ball brother, has completed his first (and only) year at UCLA, declaring for the 2017 NBA Draft following a sweet 16 loss to Kentucky. Lonzo is expected to be selected in the top-two picks in this summer's draft, showing superstar athletic ability, shooting prowess, and basketball IQ to impress professional scouts. The middle child, LiAngelo, is only a three-star recruit who will graduate from Chino Hills High School this spring. The 6'5 guard committed to UCLA in 2015 and will join the team in his anticipated one season for the Bruins next year. 15-year old LaMelo Ball rounds out the family. LaMelo is already a five-star recruit who has verbally committed to further his basketball career, unsurprisingly, at UCLA. LaMelo, just a sophomore, has quickly earned viral fame for a 92-point performance this winter for Chino Hills and for his talent as a outstanding sharpshooter, pulling up for three-pointers from half-court.

> **"Every action LaVar Ball has taken has been an intricate part of his plan to produce an NBA dynasty within his household."**

Despite the widespread success on the court, many casual basketball fans know the Ball brothers simply for the outspokenness regarding their father, LaVar. LaVar played one season of collegiate basketball for Washington State, where he averaged an unimpressive 2.2 points per game as a starting forward. Following a failed NFL career (on the practice squad for the New York Jets and Carolina Panthers), LaVar has now transitioned his attention towards marketing his immensely talented offspring. He has created "Big Baller Brand," a clothing line "founded on core family values, and inspired by the 3 Ball brothers," according to the brand's website. Big Baller Brand specializes in overpriced hats (averaging $100) and t-shirts ($60 each). LaVar has appeared on ESPN programs *SportsNation* and *First Take*, and he has conducted interviews on nearly every major media outlet in the United States.

The eccentric basketball father has become an internet phenomenon for his outlandish comments regarding his children's, and his own, basketball abilities. LaVar has commented that his son Lonzo is better than MVP-candidate Russell Westbrook and all-time great LeBron James. He has frequently told the press that he believes his children will far exceed the productivity of back-to-back NBA MVP Stephen Curry. In addition, LaVar has claimed he could defeat Michael Jordan in a game of one-on-one, chirped Charles Barkley for his title-less career and demanded a one billion dollar shoe deal for his three sons. His comments have garnered criticism from Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr, Barkley, James and many in the basketball community. Following Lonzo's poor shooting performance in his final game for UCLA, LaVar was blamed for distracting his son from playing at a high level. Hundreds of articles have been written advocating for a silencing of the boisterous father of basketball's most popular family.

I, however, firmly believe that LaVar's actions are beneficial to his sons and to the sport of basketball. We are lucky to live in one of, if not the, most entertaining periods in the history of professional basketball. The game has been revolutionized in recent years, favoring a fast-paced, sharpshooting play style that has allowed players like Westbrook, Curry and James Harden to dominate. The current depth of talent in the NBA is unparalleled in the history of the league. Lonzo Ball is the perfect player for today's NBA, and he will likely be the cornerstone to the franchise lucky enough to draft him in June. LaVar provides constant motivation to his sons and has guided them on the path to superstardom.

With constant comparisons to the NBA's all-time greats, LaVar creates an environment where his sons buy into the reality that they can be similarly great. Watching an ESPN feature on the Ball family, one LaVar quote stuck with me: "Somebody has to be better than Michael Jordan. Why not you?" LaVar genuinely believes that his sons can redefine the league and become all-time greats in the sport. And why can't one of the brothers become the next Greatest of All Time? Being under the influence of a vocal leader who reminds you daily that you are destined to greatness instills a real faith in a destiny bound for success. Greatness has become ingrained in the mindsets of the Ball brothers. They are hungry to prove themselves and will put in the work necessary to back-up their father's comments. To fall short of the lofty expectations placed on the trio would represent a tragic failure.

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**Lonzo Ball has declared he will enter the 2017 NBA Draft, where he will likely be selected within the first two picks.**

The role of a parent in youth sports represents a difficult balance between support and interference. Many criticize LaVar for his over involvement in the careers of his sons. They claim that he distracts from on-court performance, by seeking the spotlight for himself, and that his comments entice opposition to target the Ball brothers in competition. But are LaVar's actions truly harmful? If a child has aspirations to play a professional sport, he/she will be forced to overcome dozens of obstacles on the path to success. The Ball brothers have the potential to be excellent NBA players. The added attention and media narratives will likely result in adversity throughout their playing careers. This adversity will foster improvement. With competition relishing the opportunity to tear down basketball's wonderkids, Lonzo, LaMelo and LiAngelo will be forced to step up their game on the court. Consistently scrutinized under the microscope of the media, the Ball brothers will be in the spotlight for every game they play. They must elevate their play to fulfill LaVar's ambitious statements. The trio has proved capable in dealing with the consequences of their father's comments so far, dominating the game at the high school and collegiate level.

Finally, LaVar's entertainment value is irreplicable. He is truly a one-man show. I would happily tune into a weekly show surrounding the home life of the Ball family. Watching Lonzo and LaMelo play heated games of NBA 2K17 on XBox, hearing LaVar discuss the magical athletic powers of his famous scrambled eggs and scrutinizing the training of the NBA's next top talents would be riveting. LaVar's booming presentation and hilarious demeanor bring a unique voice to the sport. His intensity and passion reveal his genuine care for his sons.

LaVar Ball is a businessman, trainer, strength and conditioning instructor, marketing department, and at-home coach for his sons Lonzo, LaMelo and LiAngelo. He orders his sons to put up hundreds of shots before going to school in the morning, and keeps them on strict weightlifting regimens. Every action LaVar Ball has taken has been an intricate part of his plan to produce an NBA dynasty within his household. With an NBA lottery-bound talent and two rising NCAA Division I basketball stars, LaVar's plan is coming to fruition before the basketball community's eyes. From a young age, LaVar told his sons that they would be professional basketball players. Today, the Ball brothers look destined to succeed at the highest level of the sport. Although inviting an avalanche of criticism, LaVar has given his sons the tools to achieve greatness on the basketball court. The next few years will test whether LaVar's strategy is one to be replicated, or whether his overbearing nature is harmful and preventative.

# Culture of ambivalence towards academics plagues NCAA athletics

**by Levi Lorenzo'19**
*Sports Editor*

Congratulations to Luke Maye and the North Carolina basketball team on winning the national title. In the Elite Eight, Maye, a former walk-on, scored with 0.3 seconds left to lift the Tar Heels to a 75-73 victory over Kentucky. Maye hit his game winner at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 26 in Memphis. At 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 27, Maye was present for his Business 101 class in Chapel Hill and received a standing ovation from his classmates. A fellow student took a video and posted it to Twitter. *Bleacher Report* and *Sports Illustrated* both took up the story and it exploded across the internet.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with applauding for a classmate who hit one of the greatest shots. In fact, it would almost be a travesty not to. *Bleacher Report* and *Sports Illustrated*, among others, lauded Maye for attending class the morning after the game, however. The tweets did not highlight the fact that students applauded for Maye but the fact that he was in class at all, as if Maye attending class was an awe-inspiring, inspirational moment.

In the current culture of big time Division I sports, Maye's attendance can understandably be viewed as surprising; However, it most certainly should not be news. Maye did not have an excuse to not attend class, and should have been fully expected to be there. Maye should be applauded for his great performance, but deserves no applause for attending class. Division III student-athletes are not given such leeway, and Division I student-athletes should not be treated differently.

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, commonly referred to as March Madness, draws huge publicity and large television audiences. The intense commercialization makes it all too easy to lose sight of the fact that the players are student-athletes, meaning students first and then athletes. In reality, being a student-athlete entails taking on more responsibility, not shifting one's responsibility from the classroom to the field. Many coaches and boosters miss this fact as well. North Carolina, in particular, is currently ensnared in a long-running controversy regarding academic fraud. Specifically, evidence has come to light that over the course of 18 years, the school's African and Afro-American Studies department offered over 200 courses that never met and had few requirements but still counted for credit.The University has tried to sweep the issue under the rug. Academic tutor Mary Willingham, whom the University hired to help student athletes, claimed that the University was playing a "shell game" to keep student-athletes from having to seriously study. UNC succeeded in this endeavor: examinations by Willingham of 183 UNC basketball and football players from 2004-2012 showed that 60% of these athletes read at between a fourth and eighth-grade level and that 10% read at below a third grade level.

I do not buy the argument that athletes simply do not have time for a rigorous academic schedule. Plenty of other students take on other extra-curricular activities and, perhaps because their activities receive far less publicity, are not given academic leeway. For that matter, ask Division III student athletes, such as those here at Hamilton, about time commitment. It is not easy to balance sports and school, but it can, and must, be done. Professors should be understanding about athletic commitments but most certainly should not lower standards.

> **"Being a student-athlete entails taking on more responsibility, not shifting one's responsibility from the classroom to the field."**

North Carolina is a strong academic school, but Luke Maye is not a superstar academic for showing up to Business 101 on Monday morning after a game. If I had to guess, Business 101 is not exactly organic chemistry. Also, why is Maye, a Business Administration major in the second semester of his sophomore year, just now taking Business 101? I cannot definitively say Maye's schedule is easy, but I can guarantee that many Division I student-athletes have schedules filled with cupcakes. On top of that, they have tutors, professors give them leeway and academic fraud is widespread, made evident by numerous scandals in recent years.

It is not Maye's fault that his going to class was heralded as some great feat. The problem comes from a culture where student-athletes are merely athletes, and their only academic goal is to ensure, by whatever means possible that they are eligible to play. A mere 1.1% of NCAA men's basketball players even get drafted to the NBA. The average career for an NBA player is just 4.8 years. Needless to say, colleges have an obligation to prepare students for life beyond athletics. Even if a student never obtains a career outside sports, colleges and universities educate students to be better citizens and responsible, functioning adults, not just make them more marketable for a career. Coaches, faculty,and administrators need to reinforce that student-athletes are students first, rather than enabling them to skate by. The NCAA has tried to crack down on academic violations, but they cannot change the culture. Sadly, with college sports making more and more money, there is incentive to push athletes to be the best they can be athletically at the expense of academics. At the end of the day, however, this is a disservice to those athletes, to the kids who idolize those athletes and aspire to play big-time college, and potentially even professional, sports and to society as a whole, because these student-athletes fail to receive the quality of education their institution promises to every student.

# Hard work yields dividends as rowing teams dominate competition

*from **Rowing**, page 16*

given the large number of first-year rowers (one of whom is a coxswain in the men's 4). "We have such a young team, and we are so thrilled with how much more we can grow," she said. "This weekend was really a great way to kick off the home races."

> **"Having such a good regatta is encouraging, and our hard work has paid off. It's clear that the program is definitely gaining attention."**
> *—Trent Pfieffer '19*

The second men's 8 completed the morning, and Hamilton took home a first place finish yet again with a time of 7:35.3, beating second-place Franklin & Marshall by a remarkable 33.7 seconds. The success was even more profound due to the boat's inexperience, as they had only practiced one time together in Sunday's configuration. Trent Pfieffer '19, who competed on both the first and second men's 8 boats, attributed their success to a strong work ethic. "We're very excited to be back out on the water, and we all really want to do well," he said. "Having such a good regatta is encouraging, and our hard work has paid off. It's clear that the program is definitely gaining attention."

Though the weekend was a resounding success for Hamilton men's and women's Rowing alike, the next few weekends will have the Continentals facing tougher competition. Both the men and women will race Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Lake Quinsigamond on April 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VICKY XU '19

**Four out of five Hamilton boats won their races last weekend.**

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
April 6, 2017

# Softball swept by Amherst in first NESCAC series, travels to Williams this weekend

**by Robert Fitzgerald '20**
*Sports Writer*

The Hamilton softball team entered the weekend sitting at 7-10 and eager to begin conference play. Amherst College, however, was able to come into Clinton and take all three games from the series, winning 10-5 on Saturday, as well as 13-5 and 6-4 on Sunday. Although they would not need it, Amherst (12-6) lost their home-field advantage when they announced that their fields would not be playable for the weekend series with the Continentals. Thus, they acted as the home team (batting second) despite the series' location.

Strangely, it was Hamilton that seemed to come away with the momentum following the series opening defeat. Even though Amherst won 10-5, they seemed to lose focus at the end of the game, letting Hamilton back into a position to win despite holding a 10-0 advantage entering the 5th inning. Knowing that an 8 goal differential after the 5th inning would enact the mercy rule, effectively ending the game, Hamilton went on a desperate two-out rally that saw three runs come across the plate, thereby extending the matchup. In the next inning, the girls added two more runs thanks to extra-base hits from Becca Butler '17 and Hanna Stabb '17. In the final frame, Hamilton got the bases loaded with two outs, only to come away from the inning without a run, with the game-tying batter standing in the on-deck circle.

Despite the loss, it was certainly a valiant effort from the Continentals and a bit of a letdown for Amherst. Amherst, however, would make no such mistake the next afternoon. While Hamilton jumped out to a 2-0 advantage, Amherst finished the game on a 13-3 run, ending the matchup in five innings. A lot of this had to do with the patience Amherst had at the plate; they forced nine walks while only giving up one to the Continentals. The Amherst pitchers, however, did give up eight hits to the Continentals, including a double and a triple for both Stabb and Ashleah Yzaguirre '19. Emily Fraser '20 also played a great game in the loss, coming up with a double as well as a solo home run in a 2-2, 1 RBI performance. Unfortunately, these hits never amounted to much of a challenge for Amherst, who doubled Hamilton's hit total and went on to win the first end of the Sunday double header by a score of 13-5.

The second contest of the double header also acted as the final game of the series and was without a doubt the most exciting of the three. Amherst got out to a 2-0 lead early, but Hamilton was able to respond with two of their own in the top of the second, thanks to a two-run single from Daphne Assimakopoulos '17. Desmen Depaulis '19 shut down Amherst for the following four innings, and Hamilton was able to tack on another two runs in the top of the 5th thanks to a two-run single from Yzaguirre.

Hamilton looked primed for their first win of the series, but Amherst had other plans in mind. In the bottom of the sixth, they were able to transform a 4-2 deficit into a 6-4 lead, highlighted by a bases-clearing triple from Kyra Naftel '19 that closed the rally. Following the 6th inning outburst, Hamilton still had three outs left to try and turn things around. Unfortunately, they were shut down in the final frame, ending the game 6-4 and the series 3-0 in favor of Amherst.

Amherst will look to carry this momentum into their next NESCAC series, a three game stint at Middlebury played across this Friday and Saturday. Meanwhile, Hamilton will look to rebound when they travel to Williamstown, MA for a three-game series with Williams this weekend. Game 1 will be played Friday (4/7) at 5:00 p.m., while Games 2 & 3 will be played on Saturday (4/8) at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., respectively. The Ephs swept their first NESCAC series, beating Wesleyan 10-1 and 12-7 on Friday and Saturday.

# Men's and women's rowing each sweep varsity eights on Erie Canal

**by Grace Myers '19**
*Sports Writer*

In their first home regatta of the spring season Hamilton College's Men's and Women's Rowing dominated both Franklin & Marshall College and Skidmore College in nearly every race for a strong showing. The boats faced a mild current and a headwind of 8-11 miles per hour, which made the waters a bit choppy. They competed in Rome's stretch of the Erie Canal, where Hamilton raced 5 boats against the other two colleges and won all but one of the races for an extraordinary near shutout.

The morning began at 10:30 am with the men's varsity eight boat, which took the best time of the day, completing their 2000m with a time of 7:08.07. They beat F&M and Skidmore easily, though Skidmore almost overtook the Diplomats for the second place finish. The second and third place teams had a margin of only 9 seconds.

Hamilton's women's varsity boat was next up, and the Continentals again came out in first place with open water to spare. They finished with a time of 8:06.7. Franklin & Marshall again took second, and Skidmore third. Coxswain Rachel Sutor '20 remarked that "all of our boats did a spectacular job this weekend. It is really exciting to enter the season with such a strong showing."

Women's rowing completed their regatta with the next race, again beating the other two boats for a first-place finish with a time of 8:26.6. Franklin & Marshall and Skidmore settled into their positions as second and third respectively. The win was especially remarkable given the boat's youth—five of the boat's eight rowers are first-year students. The coxswain, Laura Hornby '20, was racing in just her second career regatta and has been in a boat for just four weeks. The remarkable team effort by both women's boats paid off, and they took home two first place finishes.

The men's 4+ was next, and they took second place in a close race, earning a time of 8:22.8. Skidmore was the surprise of the race, scooping up first with just 14 seconds to spare. Franklin & Marshall took third, and the afternoon continued. Sutor reaffirmed the team's overall enthusiasm, especially

*see **Rowing**, page 15*

PHOTO COURTESY OF VICKY XU '19

**The women's varsity eight defeated Franklin & Marshall and Skidmore on Saturday.**